

Message Text

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TAGS: PLO, UN

SUBJ: PLO PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN

1. PLO PRESS CONFERENCE MID-DAY NOV. 12 REFLECTED CONSIDERABLE UNDERSTANDING OF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY UNGA DEBATE TO TAKE PALESTINIAN CASE BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION. PLO DELEGATE NABEEL SHAATH READ PREPARED STATEMENT (TEXT PARA 2), AND WAS FOLLOWED BY PLO SPOKESMAN SHAFIQ EL-HOUT WHO REPLIED TO QUESTIONS. IN NEITHER CASE WAS US CRITICIZED. HOUT WAS ASKED IF PLO CONTEMPLATED CONTACT WITH US MISSION, AND REPLIED THAT CONTACTS WITH MISSION EXIST, AND "IT IS UP TO THEIR SIDE TO DECIDE BEGIN BRACKETS WHETHER THEY CONTINUE END BRACKETS."

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT READ BY SHAATH:

AN ADVANCE PARTY OF THE PALESTINE DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL SSSEMBLY SESSION ARRIVED YESTERDAY AMIDST THE HEAVIEST SECURITY MEASURES. THESE WERE WARRANTED APPARENTLY BY THE REPEATED THREATS OF A GROUP OF ZIONIST FANATICS. NEW YORK HOST THE UNITED NATIONS, AND THE PLO, AS YOU WELL KNOW, HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEBATES ON THE

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PALESTINE QUESTION AS A SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN

PEOPLE BY A VOTE OF 105 MEMBER STATES. WE ARE HERE TO RESPOND TO THIS INVITATION AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PLO, YASIR ARAFAT, WILL BE LEADING OUR DELEGATION. WE ARE EXPECTING HIM HERE SHORTLY, WE WILL BE ADDRESSING THE UN WEDNESDAY MORNING, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE INTENSIVE PRESSURE AND THE HARANGUING OF OUR PRESENCE, AND THREATS TO WHICH WE ARE EXPOSED BY A SMALL MINORITY OF AMERICANS DO NOT, WE ARE SURE, REPRESENT THE BASIC ATTITUDES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN GENERAL. THEY ARE PREDICATED ON THE TRADITION OF FAIR PLAY AND EAGERNESS TO LISTEN TO THE OTHER SIDE. OUR DELEGATION IS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE NOISY ORCHESTRATED EXPRESSIONS OF HATE UNDERTAKEN BY ZIONIST GROUPS ARE A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT AN EMERGING AMERICAN DISPOSITION TO FOCUS ON THE SUBSTANTIVE AND SERIOUS ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE AND TO THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN GENERAL. OUR DELEGATION IS SURE THAT THE SPECTACLE OF DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED BY THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE CONSIDERED A FORETASTE OF THE SYSTEMATIC AND INSTITUTIONALIZED INTIMIDATION TO WHICH OUR PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY. OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION BY THE ZIONIST STATE. NOW THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS WANT TO PREVENT US FROM EXERCISING OUR RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION IN DEFENSE OF OUR PEOPLE. OUR DELEGATION IS MEETING WITH YOU AND THROUGH YOU WITH THE PUBLIC OPINION IN YOUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES AND TO REGULARIZE OUR CONTACTS WITH YOU IN THE COMING DAYS OF THE DEBATE AT THE UNITED NATIONS TO WHICH OUR DELEGATION HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. WE CAN BE REACHED AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES - THE PLO OFFICE IN THE UN AND AT SUITE 2530 AT THE WALDORF BY PHONE. OUR DELEGATION WILL TRY, DESPITE ALL THE HARDSHIPS AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF ORCHESTRATED

HARASSMENTS, TO MAKE ITSELF AVAILABLE TO YOU AND TO THE MEDIA AT LARGE SO THAT OUR CONSTRUCTIVE, SUSTAINED AND PURPOSEFUL DIALOG WILL NOT BE SIDETRACKED BY MARGINAL NOISY HARRASSMENT FROM ANY QUARTER. OUR DELEGATION IS EMBARKING ON ITS FIRST MAJOR DIPLOMATIC UNDERTAKING AND THE PLO LIKE ALL AUTHENTIC LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HISTORY WILL MAINTAIN ALL THE NECESSARY OPTIONS OPEN. WE HAVE COME HERE TO THE UN DESPITE OUR PEOPLES' EARLY DISILLUSIONMENT WITH ITS PAST PERFORMANCE CONCERNING OUR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND DESPITE THE RECORD THAT HAS BEEN REplete WITH NUMEROUS RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING ISRAELI VIOLATIONS, WHILE NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

WE ARE HERE BECAUSE THE UNITED NATIONS HAS CHANGED

SUBSTANTIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE EXPANSION OF FREEDOM IN
THE THIRD WORLD AND THE GROWING AWARENESS OF THE SERIOUS
THREATS THE ZIONIST STATE CONSTITUTES TO HUMANISTIC VALUES
AND TO WORLD PEACE.

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